RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
AUG 0 3 2009

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims presented below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently amended) A method of identifying ~~or characterizing~~ a compound for treatment ~~or prevention~~ of pain, said method comprising:

(a) contacting a test compound with a ~~CNS-derived~~ cell expressing a CNS chloride transporter; ~~and~~

(b) comparing an intracellular chloride level of said cell ~~determining whether said intracellular chloride level is decreased~~ in the presence of the test compound with an intracellular chloride level of said cell in the absence of said test compound;

wherein a ~~said~~ decrease in the level of intracellular chloride in the presence relative to in the absence of said test compound is an indication that said test compound may be used for treatment ~~or prevention~~ of pain; and

(c) identifying a compound for the treatment of pain on the basis of said comparison.

45-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein said pain is selected from the group consisting of chronic inflammatory pain, pain associated with arthritis, fibromyalgia, back pain, cancer-associated pain, pain associated with digestive disease, pain associated with Crohn's disease, pain associated with autoimmune disease, pain associated with endocrine disease, pain associated with diabetic neuropathy, phantom limb pain, spontaneous pain, chronic post-surgical pain, chronic temporomandibular pain, causalgia, post-herpetic neuralgia, AIDS-related pain, complex regional pain syndromes type I and II, trigeminal neuralgia, chronic back pain, pain associated with spinal cord injury and recurrent acute pain.

PAGE 3/35 * RCVD AT 8/3/2009 1:00:56 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-5/41 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:312 427 6663 * DURATION (mm-ss):10-26

50-81. (Cancelled)

82. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said chloride transporter is K^+-Cl^- cotransporter 2 (KCC2).

83. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said intracellular chloride levels is determined by measuring anion reversal potential.

PAGE 4/35 * RCVD AT 8/3/2009 1:00:56 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-5/41 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:312 427 6663 * DURATION (mm-ss):10-26